

THE RISING OF 4 THE SHIELD HERO

THE
MANGA
COMpanion

Aiya Kyu

Original Story by
Aneko Yusagi
Character Design by
Minami Seira

ONE PEACE BOOKS

*I... I KNOW
ONE THING.*

MR.
NAOFUMI...

MR.
NAOFUMI!!

**YOU
HAVE
TO
RESIST
IT!!**

*THE DARK
SHADOW OF
DARKNESS THAT
CALLS TO YOU...*

...NO... MR.
NAOFUMI...

THE
RISING
OF 4 THE
SHIELD
HERO

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NEW EQUIPMENT



**HATE.
HATE.
HATE.
HATE.
HATE.**

THIS
HATRED
POWERS
THE
FLAMES...



WHA...



RAPH-
TALIA!



COULD
IT BE?

HOW
COULD
SHE...



WAKE
UP!

*DID
I DO
THIS?!*

FIRST
HEAL!

FIRST
HEAL
!!!

FIRST
HEAL!

FIRST
HEAL!

FIRST
HEAL!







WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
RUN?!



WHY?

WHY
DID YOU
STAY
WITH ME?



I THOUGHT...
I THOUGHT
I'D LOSE YOU
COMPLETELY IF I
DIDN'T PULL YOU
BACK...

I WAS
SCARED...



PUPUM

DAMMIT! THE
MAGIC SPELLS
I KNOW AREN'T
STRONG ENOUGH. I
BETTER GET SOME
MEDICINE OUT OF
THE CARRIAGE.



RAPHTALIA!!

U...
UGH.



GRRRRRR

...NO!



THUMP

FWOOSH

YOU
WOULD
REFUSE
ME?

NAO...
MR.
NAOFUMI?

UGH...

I CAN'T FORGET
HOW MUCH
I HATE THIS
WORLD AND ALL
THE MISERY IT
BRINGS ME...

BUT...

IF I LOSE
CONTROL AGAIN,
RAPHTALIA
WON'T SURVIVE
THE FLAMES.

✂
SQUEEZE

I DON'T... I
DON'T WANT
TO LOSE
HER TOO!



I CAN'T LOSE
ANYONE ELSE
THAT BELIEVES
IN ME!



IF YOU
DON'T...
YOU'LL BE
HERE.

SQUEEZE

LOATH
THEM!!

HATE
THEM!!

THAT IS
WHERE YOUR
STRENGTH
COMES
FROM!!!



**THIS
RAGE
AND
ANGER
ARE
MINE!!**



I'M TIRED OF
YOUR CONDE-
SCENSION!

**GET OVER
YOURSELF!**



!!
SIZZLE

I...

I DON'T
NEED YOU TO
REMIND ME
THAT I DON'T
WANT TO
DIE... BUT...



I'LL
CHOOSE
MY
OWN
PATH!



I HAVE
TO FIND
SOME
WAY TO...

THESE
FLAMES
AREN'T
ENOUGH TO
KILL IT...







**TA-
DA!**



**FINALLY
GOT
OUT
OF
THERE!**

BURP



MASTER!

FILO!!





SHUT UP.
RAPHTALIA
IS REALLY
HURT.

HEY! HEY
MASTER!



RAPHTALIA?
ARE YOU
OKAY?



IT'S THANKS
TO YOUR
SPELLS
THAT...
BESIDES...

BUT...



MR. NAOFUMI,
I'M... FINE. I
CAN GET TO
THE CARRIAGE
BY MYSELF...



FILO IS
WAITING
FOR YOU.

SEE?



YOU HAD
BETTER
FOCUS ON
CLEANING UP
THE DRAGON.







BUT IT
IS VERY
POWERFUL.
THE DRAGON
DID THIS?

...WELL,
I...

THIS
IS A
CURSE.



THE BEST
WAY TO
REMOVE A
CURSE IS
WITH A HOLY
POWER...

WHAT'S
THAT?



YES. I
ACCIDENTLY
LET MYSELF
GET HIT BY
ITS ROTTING
FLESH.

I SEE...



NO. THIS IS A
SIMPLE ITEM.
IT WILL TAKE
MUCH TIME TO
HEAL...

THAT WILL
HEAL
THE
CURSE?!



HOLY
WATER.





THINKING
BACK ON
IT, I WAS
ALWAYS
READY TO
RUN.



IT WAS THAT
FEARFUL HEART
OF MINE...

THAT GOT
POSSESSED.



I SHOULD
HAVE
TRUSTED
THEM
MORE.

THEY
BELIEVE
IN ME...
THEY FIGHT
WITH ME.



IT'S TRUE
THAT ALL
I CAN DO
IS DEFEND.
BUT...



YOU'RE
RIGHT.



NO... IT
WASN'T
YOUR FAULT.



BUT CAUTION
AND COWARDICE
ARE ALSO NOT
THE SAME
THING.

COURAGE
AND RECK-
LESSNESS
ARE NOT
THE SAME
THING.

IT FILLS ME
WITH SUCH
POWERFUL
HATRED AND
ANGER...

THE
SHIELD OF
RAGE.



HEY...

I NEED TO GET
STRONG ENOUGH
THAT I NO LONGER
NEED TO RELY ON
IT'S POWER.



HEH
hehehe

WHAT A
PIG.

HOW
WONDERFUL!

?!

WHOA!
MASTER
LAUGHED!

YEAH! I LIKE
MASTER
HOWEVER HE IS,
BUT HE'S EVEN
BETTER WHEN
HE'S SMILING!

EVER
SINCE WE
GOT BACK
YOU'VE BEEN
BROODING.

MR. NAOFUMI...
I KNOW THAT
YOU VALUE US
AND THAT YOU
CARE ABOUT US.

WELL WE...
WE CARE
ABOUT YOU
TOO.





HEY,
ARE YOU
RECOVERED
ENOUGH TO
BE DOING
THAT?!

I'M FINE.



AND ONE
HERO CAN'T
BRING PEACE
TO THE
WORLD BY
HIMSELF...



IF WE KEEP
CUTTING THEM
DOWN, EVENTUALLY
THEY WILL ALL
HEAD BACK FOR
THE MOUNTAINS.



THE MONSTERS
THAT HAD BEEN
COMING DOWN FROM
THE MOUNTAINS
ARE WEAKER NOW,
WITHOUT THE DRAGON.



WE
BETTER WORK
ENOUGH TO
PAY OFF
RAPHTALIA'S
HOSPITAL
BILLS
THOUGH.



MY
STOMACH
IS STILL
EMPTY
THOUGH.

ISN'T THIS
GREAT? THE VIL-
LAGERS ARE SO
HAPPY NOW THAT
THE DRAGON IS
GONE!



HEY RAPHTALIA!
LET'S MAKE ONE
MORE PASS
AROUND THE
VILLAGE AND
CALL IT A DAY!

OKAY!



FILO, CALM
DOWN AND
FOCUS!

YOU
KNOW
WHAT?!



THERE MIGHT
BE POWERFUL
MONSTERS
OUT HERE!

BUT...
BUT
I...



OVER
THERE!

WHAT IS
IT FILO?



YUMY-
LOOKING?



SOME
YUMMY-LOOKING
BIRDS ARE UP TO
SOMETHING.



ARE YOU
LISTEN-
ING TO
ME?!

WANT ME TO
TAKE THEM
OUT?!

CHOMP

THOSE ARE WILD
FILOLIALS...
JUST LIKE YOU,
FILO!



ARE YOU A
FILOLIAL?

MY...
GOODNESS!

OH...

YOU TALKING
TO ME?

**A TALKING
FILOLIAL?!**

**THIS IS
LIKE A
DREAM
!!!**

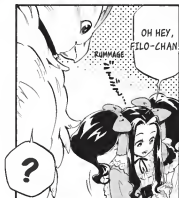
A HUMAN
GIRL?

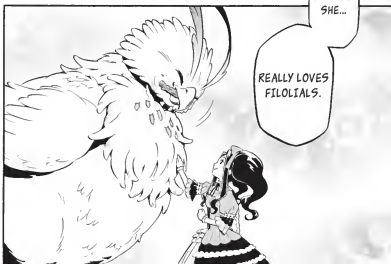
?!





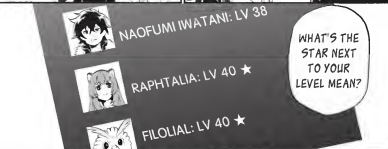
CHAPTER 14 **FILO'S FRIEND**















WAIT,
WAIT,
WAIT!
YOU WERE
SEPARAT-
ED?

HUH?

I REALIZE
IT'S A LOT
TO ASK...



IS THERE
ANYWAY I COULD
CONVINCE YOU
TO TAKE ME
WITH YOU-
IF ONLY FOR A
LITTLE WHILE.



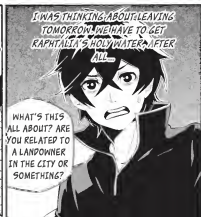
IF YOU COULD
JUST BRING
ME WITH YOU
TO THE CITY
GATES...

BUT I HEARD
THAT YOU
WERE HEADED
FOR MELRO-
MARC CASTLE
TOWN...



...YES. I WAS
ON MY WAY
HOME, BUT I
GOT SEPARATED
FROM MY
GUARDS.

GUARDS?



I WAS THINKING ABOUT LEAVING
TOMORROW WE HAVE TO GET
RAPHTALIA'S HOLY WATER AFTER
ALL...

WHAT'S THIS
ALL ABOUT? ARE
YOU RELATED TO
A LANDOWNER
IN THE CITY OR
SOMETHING?

WHAT KIND OF
GUARD WOULD
JUST LEAVE
HER BEHIND?



SHE MUST
BE FROM A
WEALTHIER
FAMILY THAN
I'D THOUGHT.



...I WONDER...
WAS I RIGHT
ABOUT HER?



I AGREE!
WE SHOULD
TAKE HER
WITH US!

MASTER!
PLEASE!
PLEASE!



!!
HMM

...!



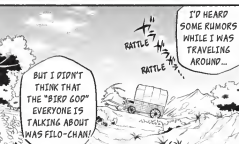
MY DAD
WILL PAY
YOU!!!

SURE!



...I'LL EXPECT
PAYMENT
WHEN WE GET
THERE.

!



BUT I DIDN'T
THINK THAT
THE "BIRD GOD"
EVERYONE IS
TALKING ABOUT
WAS FILO-CHAN!

I'D HEARD
SOME RUMORS
WHILE I WAS
TRAVELING
AROUND...



WOO-
HOO!

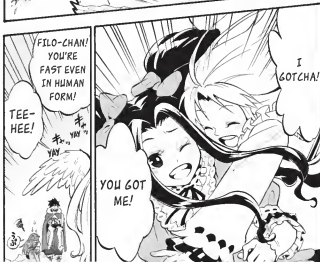


TEE-HEE!

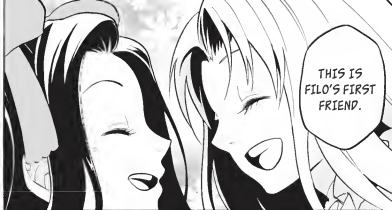
WANT ME
TO RUN
EVEN
FASTER?

YES!

MEL, YOU
REALLY LIKE
FILOLIALS,
DON'T YOU?







THIS IS
FILO'S FIRST
FRIEND.



OF COURSE
SHE'S
HAPPY.



WE'LL GET
TO CASTLE
TOWN
TOMORROW.
THE
FRIENDSHIP
WILL BE
SHORT.



I REMEMBER
HAVING FUN ON
SCHOOL TRIPS,
WHEN I WAS
YOUNGER.



...



I GUESS THEY CAN HAVE FUN
TONIGHT IF THEY WANT TO...



FILO PROBABLY
SEES RAPHTALIA
AS MORE OF AN
OLDER-SISTER
TYPE.



SHE LOOKS
LIKE SHE'S
REMEMBERING
SOMETHING.

WHAT KIND OF
LIFE HAS SHE
BEEN LIVING?

MR.
NAOFUMI

STILL. SHE'S
FROM A WEALTHY
FAMILY, BUT LIKES
FILOLIALS. AND
SHE DOESN'T
MIND SLEEPING
OUTSIDE?

OH?
THANKS.

I'LL TAKE OVER
WATCH-DUTY.

WHAT
IS IT?

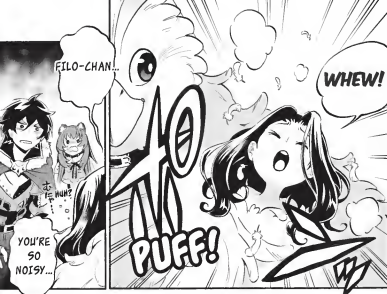
HM?

THOSE TWO
HAVE FINALLY
QUIETED
DOWN.

OVER
THERE,
NEXT TO
FILO...

THEY WERE
GIGGLING
UNTIL
PRETTY LATE
THOUGH...







RAPHTALIA!

AND IT'S
SO...
WARM...

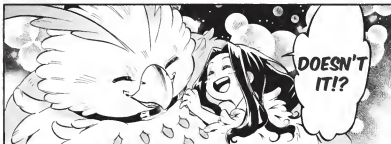


WOW! YOU
CAN REACH
REALLY DEEP
INTO HER
FEATHERS!



IT'S SO WARM
AND FLUFFY IN
THERE. IT FEELS
GREAT!

SO IT WAS SO
HOT YOU TOOK
YOUR CLOTHES
OFF?



DOESN'T
IT!?



THEY JUST DO WHATEVER
THEY WANT...



THESE RICH
KIDS...

I WORRY
TOO MUCH
ABOUT
YOU...





IT'LL TAKE ME
TWO DAYS TO
FINISH THE
UPGRADE. COME
BY ANYTIME
AFTER THAT TO
PICK IT UP!

THANKS FOR
YOUR BUSINESS!
YOU'LL BE
WANTING TO
UPGRADE THAT
BARBARIAN
ARMOR, NO?



HEY KID,
DON'T
FORGET -
IT'LL COST
YOU TO
GET HER
HEALED UP

I'D
RATHER
SPEND
MORE AND
GET YOU
THE BEST
STUFF.



SURE
AM.

HOPE YOU
DON'T
MIND IF I
LEAVE MY
CARRIAGE
HERE.

YOU'RE OFF
TO GET
HOLY WATER
NEXT,
AREN'T YOU?



OH,
AND...



UM... MR.
NAOFUMI?

ARE YOU SURE
YOU WANT
TO SPEND
SO MUCH
MONEY ON MY
EQUIPMENT?



CLASS-UP?



THERE'S A
STAR NEXT TO
OUR LEVELS
NOW. ANY
IDEA WHAT
THAT MEANS?

OH, SO I
GUESS YOU
KIDS ARE
READY FOR A
CLASS-UP?



APPARENTLY
YOU CAN DO
IT AT THE
DRAGON
HOURGLASS.

DON'T YOU KNOW? IT
MEANS BREAKING
THROUGH THE
LEVEL CAP TO KEEP
GROWING. THE
COUNTRY HAS TO
APPROVE YOU TO
CLASS-UP.



MR.
NAOFUMI...



WHY ARE THEY KEEPING
ALL THIS IMPORTANT
INFORMATION FROM ME?

THE OTHER
HEROES
MUST KNOW
ABOUT IT...



SO IF WE
DON'T
CLASS-UP...

...THEN YOU
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
LEVEL ANY
FURTHER.

DON'T RUSH. THERE'S
NOTHING YOU CAN DO
ABOUT IT YET.

WE'LL TALK
ABOUT IT
WHEN FILO
GETS BACK.



LET'S HEAD
FOR THE
CHURCH.



THE
SHIELD
HERO IS
HERE?!

SHIELD
HERO...

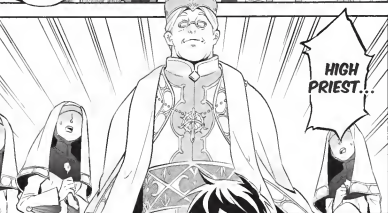




AND WHAT
BUSINESS
DO YOU HAVE
WITH OUR
CHURCH
TODAY?

WHAT?

DON'T YOU
WANT ME
AROUND?



**HIGH
PRIEST...**



I'VE COME
TO ASK FOR
SOME HOLY
WATER.

...

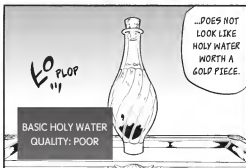


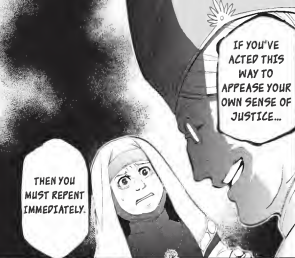
MR.
NAOFUMI...

WE NEED THE
MOST POWERFUL
WATER YOU
HAVE TO HEAL
MY FRIEND'S
CURSE.

HOW
MUCH?

...THEN
WE WILL
REQUIRE A
PONATION.







GIVE
THANKS FOR
THE LORD'S
GUIDANCE.



CURSE-BANISHING HOLY
WATER
QUALITY: EXCELLENT

THAT
SHOULD BE
WHAT YOU
SEEK.



ALL IS DUE
TO HIS
MERCY...



HEY...

SOMEONE
IS RUNNING
OVER HERE!



UM... MR.
NAOFUMI?

THEY TREAT
ME LIKE
I'M SOME
KIND OF
CRIMINAL...



WHY DO THEY
HAVE TO
ACT LIKE I
OWE THEM
SOMETHING
NOW?



WHA...

THE
SHIELD
HERO!

HEY,
THAT'S...



WAIT!

DASH

SOLDIERS!
RUN!



I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN
THAT I'D BE
RECOGNIZED
HERE!

BUT WHY ARE
THEY CHASING
US? WE
HAVEN'T DONE
ANYTHING!

JUST A
SECOND!

DAMMIT!
HOW LONG
IS HE GOING
TO CHASE
ME?





WHA...

NAOFUMI
!!!

MOTOYASU?!

SLAM

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

MURMUR





I KNOW
THAT
YOU...

I KNOW
ALL
ABOUT
IT...



WHAT?
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
RAPHTALIA?

NO!



JUST LIKE
FLEON
OF THE
MAGICAL
LANDS!

YOU HAVE
A NEW
SLAVE!

AAAAAAAAHHH



WHAT?

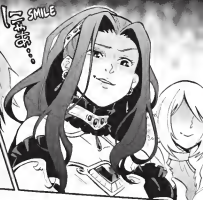




TOO
BAD I'M
ALONE.

IT'S
HER!

I SMILE
like
this...



BAH! ばい!

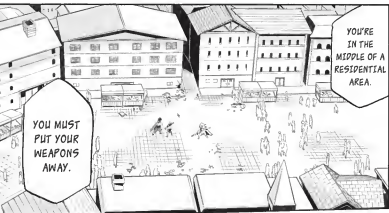
PLEASE
STOP!



IF I CAN'T
STOP HIM...

SPEAR
HERO!





...THAT BITCH.

...DAMN.

HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH

SHE'S EVEN
WORSE
THAN I
THOUGHT.

YOU
FOOL!

YOU CANNOT
IGNORE THE
COMMANDS
OF THE
CROWN.

AND I DON'T
BELIEVE THE SHIELD
HERO SHOULD BE
CHALLENGED, AS HE
CANNOT FIGHT FOR
HIMSELF.

EVEN STILL,
IT'S MY
JOB TO
PROTECT THE
CIVILIANS.

...



FWAP

IT'S BEEN
TOO LONG...
SISTER.

FWOOSH

I HEREBY...

VOID MY SISTER'S
AUTHORITY IN
THIS MATTER,
AND DECLARE
THIS DUEL
ILLEGAL. DISBAND
IMMEDIATELY.

THE
SISTER'S
AUTHORITY
IS
DISBANDED
IMMEDIATELY

Yoshino
TAKAHASHI

CHAPTER 14 END



THAT MUST
MEAN
THAT...

MEL IS...
MYNE'S
SISTER?



NO... IS
MEL THE...?

CHAPTER 15 A ROYAL ORDER



YOU
HAVEN'T
BEEN
LISTENING.

I'M SIMPLY
FULFILLING
MY DUTIES AS
THE HERO'S
ASSISTANT.



SISTER?
CERTAINLY
YOU'VE GONE
TOO FAR THIS
TIME.

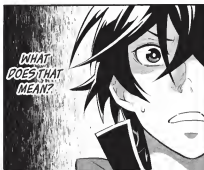


AND AN
ASSISTANT'S
DUTY IS TO
ENCOURAGE
VIOLENCE ON
CROWDED CITY
STREETS?



MELTY, DON'T
WORRY. THIS
WON'T BECOME
TOO VIOLENT.

OH?



WHAT
DOES THAT
MEAN?



IS MYNE
BACKING
DOWN?

DOES THE YOUNGER
SISTER HAVE MORE
POWER?

MR.
NAOFUMI!

TAP
タタタタ...
TAP
TAP

RAPHTALIA!
FILO!

MY
LADY...

FLIP

MOTOYA-
SU-AGAIN-WAS
UNDER THE
IMPRESSION
THAT...

YES. BUT I
STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT IS
GOING ON.

RAPHTALIA,
YOU
BROUGHT
HER HERE?





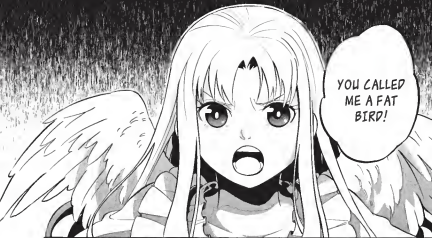
I TOLD
YOU NOT
TO FIGHT
HERE!

YOU BETTER
RUN ALONG!
THIS GUY
IS REALLY
DANGEROUS!

SLASH

FILO-CHAN?!
GET OUT OF
THE WAY!

I HAVE TO
GET RID OF
HIM.



YOU CALLED
ME A FAT
BIRD!

AND YOU
LAUGHED AT
ME THE LAST
TIME WE MET!

WHAT?
NAOFUMI,
WHAT HAVE
YOU BEEN
TELLING THIS
POOR GIRL?!



DUDUM

SPEAR-GUY

I LAUGHED?
BUT WHEN...

I HATE
YOU!

ROOF!



UM...
I...

YOU'RE
THAT...

BIRD?

FLASH



WHAM

BOOM!



NAOFUMI IS
SMILING! I'VE
NEVER SEEN
HIM SO HAPPY!



...



MR.
NAOFUMI!

YOU DID
GOOD,
FILO!

MAKE SURE
YOU GIVE HIM
A GOOD KICK
EVERY TIME
WE RUN INTO
HIM.

HE
DESERVES
AT LEAST
THIS
MUCH...



HE GIVES US
NOTHING BUT
TROUBLE.



WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO TEACH
FILO?!

WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM?
MOTOYASU
IS THE BAD
GUY HERE.



HOLY SAINT...

NO...
SHIELD
HERO.



YOU...



COULD
WE...

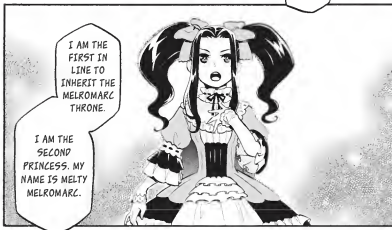
...FIND A
PLACE TO
TALK?







ALLOW ME TO
REINTRODUCE...
MYSELF.



I AM THE
FIRST IN
LINE TO
INHERIT THE
MELROMARC
THRONE.

I AM THE
SECOND
PRINCESS. MY
NAME IS MELTY
MELROMARC.



WHAT?



MY SISTER HAS
CERTAIN PERSONALITY
FLAWS THAT HAVE
CAUSED MANY
PROBLEMS IN THE
PAST. BECAUSE OF
THEM, I HAVE BEEN
GIVEN PRIORITY FOR
INHERITANCE.

FIRST
IN LINE
FOR THE
THRONE?





I LISTENED TO
YOUR SISTER
AND TO YOUR
FATHER. LOOK
WHERE THAT
GOT ME.

NO OFFENSE,
BUT I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
TRUSTING THAT
BLOODLINE.

CLATTER

EXCUSE
ME!



...VERY
WELL.



YEAH!
BYE!

SEE YOU
LATER,
FILO-CHAN!



FILO!



...



YEAH KID.
THAT
WASN'T
VERY
POLITE.





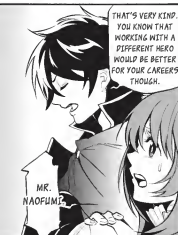


HUH?



IT'S
ABOUT
THE
WAVES.

SOME OTHER
SOLDIERS AND
I WOULD LIKE
TO FIGHT BY
YOUR SIDE!



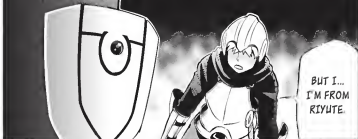
THAT'S VERY KIND.
YOU KNOW THAT
WORKING WITH A
DIFFERENT HERO
WOULD BE BETTER
FOR YOUR CAREER'S
THOUGH.

MR.
NAOFUMI



WE ALL SAW
HOW YOU
FOUGHT IN
THE LAST
WAVE-AND
WE WERE
IMPRESSED!

THERE ARE
OTHER
SOLDIERS
WHO AGREE
WE WANT TO
HELP YOU...



BUT I...
I'M FROM
RIYUTE.



BUT AS A SOLDIER
WHO FIGHTS FOR HIS
COUNTRY, I BELIEVE
OUR HIGHEST
PRIORITY SHOULD
BE SECURING THE
SAFETY OF OUR
CITIZENS.

I KNOW THAT
WE NEED TO
FIGHT THE
WAVES...



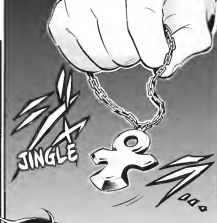
RUSTLE



POKE

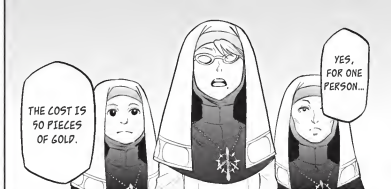


...A VERY
NOBLE
CONCERN.











NEITHER THE
SHIELD HERO
NOR HIS PARTY
MEMBERS ARE
PERMITTED TO A
CLASS-UP.

WHAT?!

WHAT?
BUT YOU
JUST...

**IT IS A
ROYAL
ORDER.**

SO
THEY'LL DO
ANYTHING
TO KEEP
US FROM
GETTING
MORE
POWER...

DAMMIT!

BUT...







IN
ANOTHER
COUNTRY?

THERE'S
MORE
THAN
ONE?



YOU SHOULD
JUST VISIT
A DRAGON
HOURGLASS IN
A DIFFERENT
COUNTRY.

HEH
お
HEH



EITHER
WAY, IT
WOULD TAKE
A LOT OF
TIME...

YES, BUT YOU'D
HAVE TO EARN
THEIR TRUST AS
WELL.



I GUESS WE
CAN'T DO IT
BEFORE THE
NEXT WAVE
THEN...







MR.
SHIELD
HERO!!

WE BROUGHT
THE MONEY!!



HERE.
150
SILVER
PIECES.



WE WENT
AROUND THE
DORMS, AND
EVERYONE
CONTRIBUTED!



NOW...

WILL YOU
TRUST US?



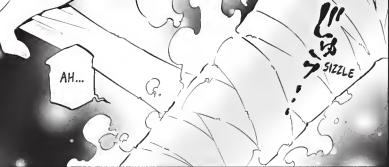
YOU HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THE
SHIELD HERO'S PARTY AS A SQUAD
COMMANDER. DO YOU ACCEPT?

▶ YES.

NO.







MR.
NAOFUMI.



WELL
THAT'S...
GOOD.

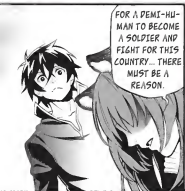
THE PLACES
YOU WRAP
YOURSELF
ARE
HEALING
FASTER.



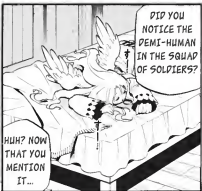
ARE
YOU
OKAY?

Y...
YES.

I'M
FINE.



FOR A DEMI-HU-
MAN TO BECOME
A SOLDIER AND
FIGHT FOR THIS
COUNTRY... THERE
MUST BE A
REASON.



DID YOU
NOTICE THE
DEMI-HUMAN
IN THE SQUAD
OF SOLDIERS?

HUH? NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT...





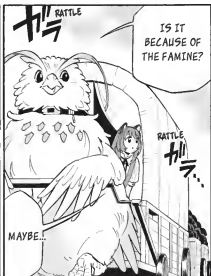
THIS TOWN
LOOKS LIKE
IT'S SEEN
BETTER
DAYS.



BUT...



EVERYONE
LOOKS
KIND OF
SCARED.



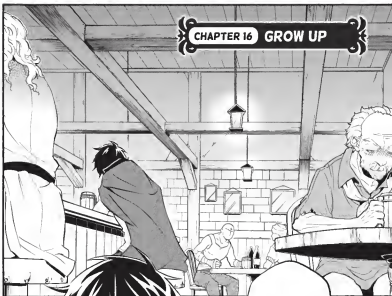
IS IT
BECAUSE OF
THE FAMINE?

MAYBE...





CHAPTER 16 GROW UP



ARE YOU SURE
ABOUT THAT?

YES...



HE'S DRESSED
LIKE A NORMAL
PERSON, AND HE'S
DISGUISED HIS
WEAPON LIKE I DO
WITH THE BOOK
SHIELD. BUT IT'S
DEFINITELY HIM.

ITSUKI!!

THE CREEPY
GUYS AROUND
TOWN MUST
BE THE
GOVERNOR'S
HENCHMEN.

I SEE.

FROM WHAT
I HEAR, THE
GOVERNOR
OF THESE
PARTS HAS
SET HIGHER
TAXES THAN
THE CROWN
REQUESTED.

AND HE
PUNISHES
ANYONE THAT
SPEAKS OUT
AGAINST HIM.

IS HE TRYING
TO GET
INFORMATION
AT THE BAR?

HE
DOESN'T
KNOW I'M
HERE.





WHAT AN
IDIOT.



I WONDER
HOW THAT
WILL WORK
OUT?



IS HE
GOING TO
SNEAK IN
AND BEAT
THE GUY
UP?

THEN PULL
OFF HIS
DISGUISE
AND
LECTURE
HIM ON
MORALITY?



I DON'T
WANT
TO GET
INVOLVED.

ANY
PRESENTS?

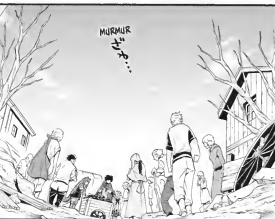
NOPE.



WELCOME
BACK.



IT'S GOT
NOTHING TO
DO WITH ME
ANYWAY.



MURMUR
ムル...



IN RATTLE
ラッ
ラッ
ラッ
IN RATTLE
ラッ...







IT MIGHT
NOT LOOK SO
DIFFERENT,
BUT IT'S A
LOT MORE
POWERFUL!

WHAT'S THE
MATTER, KID?
DON'T YOU
LIKE IT?



THE DRAGON
CORE YOU
BROUGHT ME
IS THERE IN
THE CENTER.
THAT'S THE
BIGGEST
CHANGE.



THIS IS ALL
I CAN DO
FOR YOU.

GO SAVE
THE
WORLD
FOR ME,
HERO.



I DON'T
CARE
ABOUT
THE
DESIGN.

THE NEXT
WAVE WILL
BE HERE
SOON.





AND
WHY
WOULD
I DO
THAT?

BUT WHEN I WENT
TO THE GUILD TO
GET MY REWARD,
THEY SAID THE
REWARD HAD
ALREADY BEEN
CLAIMED.

I DEFEATED
A WICKED
GOVERNOR WHO
TORTURED HIS
PEOPLE!

YOU'RE THE
ONLY HERO
THAT WOULD
BEHAVE THAT
WAY!



HOW DO YOU
KNOW A HERO
DID IT?

HEY...



WH...
WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

WHEN YOU
ACCEPTED THE
QUEST, DID YOU
PROVE THAT YOU
WERE A HERO?

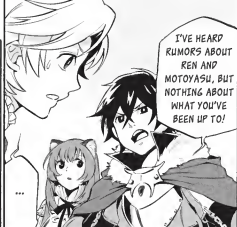
IF YOU TRY
TO HIDE YOUR
IDENTITY, YOU
SHOULDN'T BE
SURPRISED WHEN
YOU DON'T GET
THE REWARDS

HAVEN'T
YOU BEEN
TRAVELING
AROUND IN
DISGUISE?



DID YOU
THINK
EVERYONE
WOULD JUST
KNOW THAT
IT WAS YOU?

SEE THE KIND
OF BLUNDERS
YOU MAKE
WHEN YOU'RE
OBSESSED WITH
BEING COOL?



I'VE HEARD
RUMORS ABOUT
REN AND
MOTOYASU, BUT
NOTHING ABOUT
WHAT YOU'VE
BEEN UP TO!



MY ETHICS
DO NOT
ALLOW SUCH
BEHAVIOR!

YOU WANT
ME TO BE
PRIDEFUL
OF THE HELP
I PROVIDE
PEOPLE?!



DID THE
CITIZENS...

TRY TO
SECRETLY
CROSS A
BORDER
TO ESCAPE
FAMINE?



THEN TELL
ME WHAT
HAPPENED
TO THAT
COUNTRY?

NOW THAT YOU
OUSTED THE
GOVERNOR,
IS THE LAND
SUDDENLY
PROSPEROUS?





YOU'RE
RIGHT.
I'M SOR...



W...
WELL...



YOU'D
THINK I
COULD GET
A WORD OF
THANKS.



HE HAS NO
REASON TO
LIE.



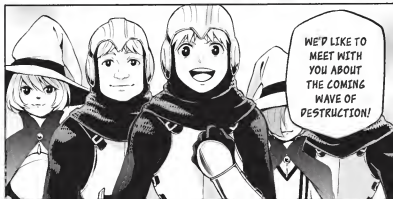
BUT...

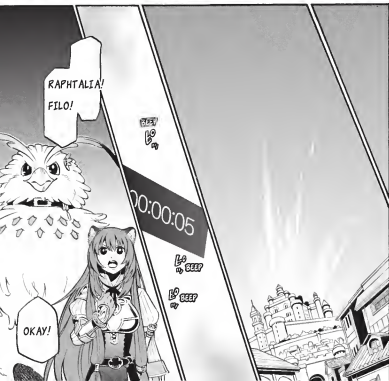
THEN WHO
TOOK MY
REWARD?!



IF IT BOTHERS
YOU, STOP THE
SELF-RIGHTEOUS
ACT AND LOOK OUT
FOR YOUR OWN
REPUTATION.

HOW
SHOULD
I KNOW?







IT'S
TIME.

CRASH



MASTER,
WE'VE
BEEN HERE
BEFORE!



YOU
MADE
IT!

HERO!

GROOM!



WHAT'S
WITH THESE
GUYS?

YOU'RE IN THE
WAY! BETTER
MOVE!













IF WE DON'T
DESTROY
THAT SHIP,
THE WAVE
WON'T END!



I'D ASK YOU
THE SAME
THING! WHAT
ARE YOU
PLAYING
WITH?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?



ITSUKI!!!



YOUR LITTLE
ARROWS
AREN'T
BRINGING IT
DOWN!

YOU NEED TO
WORK WITH
THE OTHERS
TO BRING IT
DOWN FROM THE
INSIDE!

THEY AREN'T
COORDINATING
THEIR ATTACKS?



WHAT?!

BUT
MOTOYASU
AND REN
CLIMBED
UP THERE.



THAT'S NOT HOW
YOU DO IT IN
THE GAME THAT
I KNOW CALLED
DIMENSION
WAVE!



GAME? A
GAME?!

ARE YOU
STILL
PLAYING
AROUND?!

YANK

SLAM

MR.
NAOFUMI?









**AREN'T YOU
SUPPOSED TO
BE HEROES?!**



**THE LONGER YOU
PLAY AROUND UP
HERE, THE MORE
MONSTERS
ATTACK THE
VILLAGE!**



**IF WE DEFEAT THE
CAPTAIN, THE
BOSS-THE SOUL
EATER-WILL
APPEAR!**

**IT'S
THIS
ONE.**





BUT WE ALL AGREE THAT
THEY NEED TO DEFEAT
SOMETHING TO GET THE
SOUL EATER TO APPEAR!!

DON'T
TALK TO
ME THAT
WAY!

I'VE
NEVER
HEARD
OF THAT!



RAPHTALIA!

A GHOST
SHIP... AND
UNDEAD
MONSTERS...
AND A SOUL
EATER...



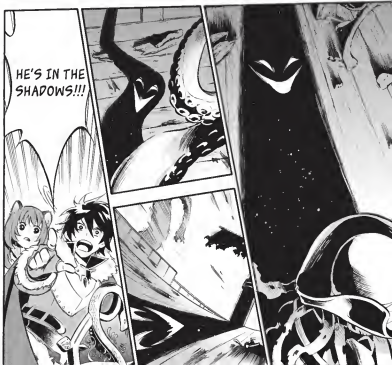
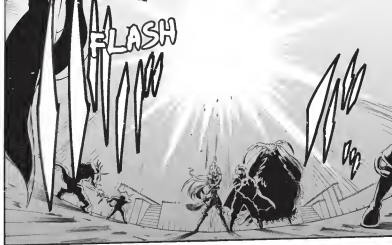
I AM THE
SOURCE OF ALL
POWER. HEAR
MY WORDS AND
HEED THEM.
BRING US
LIGHT!!

FIRST
LIGHT!!



YOU CAN
USE LIGHT
MAGIC,
RIGHT?
BURN THEM
OUT!

SHOULD
I TRY
IT?!







WELL AT
LEAST WE
FOUND
THEM

THERE'S
MORE THAN
ONE?!

THE REST
IS UP
TO YOU
GUYS!!

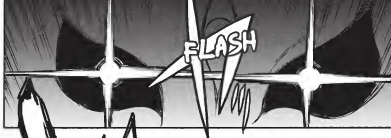
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
TELL US
TWICE!!

DA-DUM

**WIND
ARROW
!!**

**LIGHTNING
SPEAR!!**

**FLAME
SWORD!!**









THE SORT THAT HIGH-LEVEL
PLAYERS TEAM UP TO DEFEAT
FOR AN HOUR...

IF THIS WERE AN ONLINE
GAME THIS WOULD BE A
POWERFUL BOSS...



THIS IS ONLY
HAPPENING
BECAUSE THE
HEROES ARE
FOOLS!



HOW
PATHETIC...



FWOOOOOSH

I SUPPOSE
THERE ARE
NO HEROES
HERE... ARE
THERE?



RAPHTALIA!!





MR.
NAOFUMI!

CRACKLE

!!

BA-BOOM!





IF I LOSE
MYSELF TO RAGE,
RAPHTALIA AND
FILO WILL DIE.

I HAVE
NO OTHER
OPTIONS. I
DON'T NEED TO
PROTECT THEM,
BUT...

WHOOSH

SHIELD
OF RAGE
II

WHA...

THE DRAGON
CORE HAS
CAUSED YOU
TO GROW!!

CRACKLE

PODDIN!

CURSE SERIES
SHIELD OF
RAGE...
ABILITY UP!

I CAN'T
LET THAT
HAPPEN
!!!



IT COMES
FROM THE
SLAIN
DRAGON...

THIS...

ITS...
RAGE.



RAGE AT
HAVING LOST
TO A HUMAN.



HATRED SO
STRONG IT
WOULD DESTROY
THE WORLD.





...UGH.

ARRR-
R6666-
HHHH...



HEH.

AUTOMATIC
REPAIR
FUNCTION?

SHADOW RESISTANCE
HP RECOVERY (WEAK)
MAGIC POWER UP (MEDIUM)
MAGIC DEFENSE PROCESS
AUTOMATIC REPAIR FUNCTION

DEFENSE UP
ATTACK ENDURANCE
(MEDIUM)
FIRE RESISTANCE
SHADOW RESIS-
TANCE (HIGH)

AND...

THIS IS
SOME OF MY
BEST WORK
YET!

I GUESS IT CAN
REPAIR ITSELF
IF IT BREAKS...
BUT I HAVE A
BAD FEELING
ABOUT THAT.

CLANG CLINK

I CALL IT
"BARBARIAN
ARMOR + 1"
!!

SPECIAL EXTRA CHAPTER NEW EQUIPMENT









ANYWAY,
TRY IT ON!

I BET THIS ARMOR
DESIGN IS ALL A
JOKE FOR HIM.



HONESTLY, THE
ABILITIES ARE
GREAT. IT WILL
COME IN HANDY.

I KNOW HE
DOESN'T
HAVE ANY BAD
INTENTIONS...



I WORKED
EXTRA
HARD ON
IT FOR YA,
KID!



WHAT'S
WRONG KID,
DON'T YOU
LIKE IT?!

MAKES ME
REALIZE
HOW MUCH
I DON'T
LIKE THE
DESIGN...

END



SIGH...

IT
MAKES
ME
REALIZE
...



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